

The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

8462 General Puller Highway

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Topping, Virginia 23169

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E-Mail: office@COVTopping.org

Website: www.church-of-the-visitation.org



Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024 Year B

Church Hours

Sunday Mass 9AM

Wednesday Daily Mass 9AM

Thursday Daily Mass 9AM

Parish Office Hours 9AM-2PM

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Pastor, Johnny Mintah-Mensah "Koo"

119 Club Drive

Hartfield, VA 23071

Phone: 804-286-9271

Please call the office about arranging Baptisms, Marriages, the RCIA Program, Sacraments of Anointing, Reconciliation, Sick Calls, the schedule for Holy Days, and our Rosary Ministry.

PARISH MINISTRIES

Worship/Liturgy: Germaine Hayes
Justice & Peace: open
Religious Education: Zaida Wohleking
Parish Life: Johnna Harris
RCIA/Adult Formation: John Weidner
Pastoral Care: Lynne Richardson
Administration: Ray Kstesky

FINANCE COUNCIL

John Charbeneau
Anne Wolski
Debby Harriman
Ray Kstesky-Chairman
Fritz Sitterding

PARISH COUNCIL

Kevin Hayes
Cindy Jessee-Vice Chair
Steve Kirsch
Helen Linden
Roseanne Moncure-Secretary
Cindy Powers
Tom Jessee
Shelley Katsuki
John Weidner-Chair

Church Secretary, Andrea Moore
Webmaster/IT, Mike Dreelin

MASS/MUSIC

Blessing of Palms Gospel: Mark 11:1-10

Entrance: The King Of Glory #728

Liturgy of the Word

Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm: My God my God, why have you abandoned me?

Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel Mark 14:1-15:47 "The Passion of the Lord"

Homily Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: What Wondrous Love Is This #485

Holy: #918

Memorial Acclamation: When We Eat This Bread #902

Lord's Prayer Lamb Of God: #923

Communion: Bread for the World #325

Meditation: Take and Eat #364

Recessional: Were You There #159



March Birthdays

1st-David Bushey and Melissa Cabocel; 2nd-Scarlett Balch; 5th-Earlyne Glenn and Thomas Lange; 6th-Sinclair Cabocel; 8th-Sandi Delagrang and Kathryn Balch; 10th-Sarah Wohleking; 14th-Lisenka Wunder; 15th-Gloria Matthews and Tori Hollingsworth; 20th-Alexander Bushey and Gary Richardson; 21st-Peggy Williams; 23rd-Barbara Morrison; 24th-Barbara Hollingsworth; 25th-Michael Pycha; 28th-Camillo Bonanno; 29th-Eugene Wolski; 30th-Joe Sychterz and Michele Meanley.

If you would like to add your name to the Birthday/Anniversary list please contact the office.



March Anniversaries

13th-Jan and Natalie Smith; 15th-Frank and Gerry Lohr; 24th-Bill and Johnna Harris.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today-Palm Sunday (Mass starts at 8:45am)
March 25th-Christ Mass (DOR 6pm)
March 27th-Daily Mass
March 28th-No Daily Mass Holy Thursday 6:30pm
March 29th-Stations/Retreat 12-3pm/Good Friday Service-3pm
March 30th-Easter Vigil 8:00pm
March 31st-Easter Sunday "Resurrection of the Lord"
April 4th-Adoration 9:30-10:30
April 7th-Divine Mercy Sunday (guest priest)
April 3rd, 4th, 10th, 11th-No Daily Mass

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MARCH 24, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrang Community Leader: Richardson

Altar Server: Kstesky Lectors: Kstesky/Shoemaker

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: A. Wolski
Chalice: Shoemaker/Marcil/Sychterz/TBD

Music: Mears Counters: Harris/Hollingsworth

MARCH 31, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrang Community Leader: Harriman

Altar Server: Baylen/Kstesky Lectors: Dreelin/DeGroot

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Wolski
Chalice: Plunkert/Seay/TBA

Music: Mears Counters: Harriman/McNeil

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from March 17, 2024

Collection:	\$ 2,282
Second Collection:	
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date	\$ 93,113
Total Budget Projection:	\$ 87,571
Loan Balance:	\$ 135,546



Our Second Collection today is for Easter Flowers.

We signed the following principal checks this week:
\$978 Feb. electric; \$1,683 Diocesan Assessments; \$2,000 St Noa School food supplies; \$581 Rectory expenses for February.

LEGACY

How long has it been since you updated your will? Does it still express your wishes? Does it leave a gift to your church to carry on its ministry after your death?



Potential Promise & Purpose

You can share your faith beyond your lifetime by careful estate planning which includes your church in your will. During your lifetime you will have the joy of knowing that whatever you do not use in this life will continue in ministry through your church after your death.

When your estate planning documents are prepared by your attorney, you can include your church as the final beneficiary to receive any benefits that remain after other beneficiaries are remembered.

RECURRING EVENTS



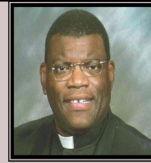
Weekly-Sunday 8:30am-New Worship Area Rosary (Cindy Jessee)
1st-Thursday of the month-Adoration 9:30am-10:30am (Cindy Jessee)
2nd-Monday of the month-Visitation Singers 9:30am (Carol McCormack)
3rd-Wednesday of the month-K of C meeting starts 5:15pm (Al Langer)
2nd & 4th-Monday each month at 1:00 pm Shawl Ministry (Sandi Delagrang)
1st-Friday each month at 9:00; other weeks on Thursdays at 9:45-COV Gals. (Louise Petralia/Eileen O'Brien)

**SUPPORTER OF
OUR SCHOLARSHIP**

Vera & John England
Christine & Peggy Williams
Kathy Kauffman
Tommy & Donna Lange
John & Diane Weidner
Mike & Gretchen Borzelleca
Charles & Louise Hartz
Jim Angell
Terry Skovera
Don Tyrrell
Norbert & Kathryn Bliley
Dan & Linda Peterson
Frank & Terry Sisto
Gene & Anne Wolski
Mr. & Mrs. Donald S. Ross

FATHER JOHN BODDIE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of our pastor and friend, Fr. John Boddie, from whom flowed love and kindness to all who knew him. May his soul rest in peace. Money from these ads are used as scholarships given to the youth of our church.



Please make your checks payable to
THE FR. JOHN BODDIE SCHOLARSHIP FUND.
Checks and ads can be deposited in the church office. The charge per space is \$100.
Thank you for your continued support. **The Scholarship Committee**

Website for scholarship application: www.church-of-the-visitation.org

Application deadline: **Early March 2024**

In memory of
Mollie McMurtrie
my long time friend.
I will miss you.
JoAnn Nolte

In loving memory of
Joseph H. Nolte Jr.



Forever,
JoAnn

Take Home Lesson

March 24, 2024

A Lavish Gift of Love

A memorable scene unfolds at the beginning of The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark during which the Lord receives a lavish expression of love. While Jesus is dining with friends in Bethany, an unnamed woman breaks an alabaster jar filled with perfumed oil (genuine spikenard) and pours the costly oil over Jesus' head.

The anointing act conjures up sacred Old Testament connotations to ancient heritage, priestly rituals, the consecration of kings, and the prophetic figure of Messiah. "Christ" is the Greek translation of the Hebrew "Messiah" which literally means "One Smear'd with Oil".

A popular designation for the promised future king of Israel was "Anointed One." This title evolves from God's method of marking people set aside for a specific purpose and granting them authority. The prophet Isaiah, looking forward to the future promised king and savior of Israel, names the one who would remove all burdens from his people as the "Anointed One."

By anointing Jesus' head, the woman both prepares Jesus for burial and commissions him a messianic king. Her pouring of oil on Jesus' head prefigures Jesus' pouring out of his blood for all.

The anointing scene also recalls Psalm 23, which begins: "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I lack." In the second part of the psalm, the Lord is presented as a generous banquet host: "You set a table before me in front of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

After the Passover meal with his disciples, on the way to the Mount of Olives, Jesus said to them, "All of you will have your faith shaken, for it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be dispersed. But after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee." Indeed, the Good Shepherd is struck, and, as predicted, the faith of Peter and the other disciples is very much shaken. They do not yet understand the hope of the Resurrection, but Jesus tells them he will meet them in Galilee.

There is no lack of faith on the part of the woman. Her act of anointing Jesus reveals complete understanding and mature faith. Not only does she believe Jesus is the Christ, but she accepts that Jesus can only gain His throne by his pending death. Hence her anointing is declared by Jesus as preparing Him for the grave.

A similar telling of this Passion Week anointing in John's Gospel identifies the woman as Mary of Bethany, who listened intently at Jesus' feet. Her sister, Martha, has surely told her what Jesus said before calling their brother, Lazarus, from the tomb: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live..." (John 11:25-26)

This woman of Bethany recognizes Jesus' impending sacrifice with a lavish gift of love. As with other gifts we offer to Jesus, he multiplies and returns them many times over.

**What does the woman at Bethany teach us about genuine discipleship?
What might be something you could do for Jesus in response to his sacrifice for you?**

WHAT PALM SUNDAY MEANS

(excerpts from a treatise by D. D. Emmons)

There is both great joy and terrible sorrow associated with this day, the Sunday that begins Holy Week, the Sunday that portends the crucifixion of Our Lord.

It is a time of despair, perplexity and contradiction. The very people who applaud Christ's entrance into Jerusalem that morning, shouting out "Hosanna" and words of adoration will, within a week, be crying, "Crucify Him." They will go from acclaiming Him as the new King of Israel to urging His life be traded in favor of a convicted criminal; they will first praise Him and then mock Him. Even friends entering Jerusalem at His side will desert Jesus. All this discord will take place during one week beginning on what we call Palm Sunday.

Exuberant Crowds

As we read in the Gospels, Jesus went to Jerusalem to join with throngs of Jews to celebrate the Passover feast as had been prescribed in the Old Testament books of Exodus and Deuteronomy. According the Gospel of St. John, Jesus and many of his followers journeyed the less than two miles from Bethany on that Sunday, arriving outside Jerusalem. As was the custom, pilgrims that had already arrived in the city went out to greet newly arriving groups; some had never seen Jesus but had heard about the miracles attributed to Him and were caught up in the excitement.

Previously, Our Lord had deliberately avoided popular acclaim, even fled, but this, upon entering Jerusalem, He accepts. Yet His actions are different than the people expected. He doesn't present himself as a rival to Caesar; He is not the political messiah or the warrior king the multitude had clamored for. Instead of entering Jerusalem on a war horse or chariot, he enters on a donkey, a sign of peace; and not just any donkey, but one on which no one had ever sat, the prerogative of a king. Seeing Him on the donkey, the Jews surging around Him recalled the words of the Prophet Zecharia 500 years earlier.

Riding on the borrowed donkey, Jesus made His humble entrance into the city while the crowds were scattering their garments before Him and waving their palm branches. This joyful scene belies the traitorous acts, sorrow and agony that will soon follow belies that this triumphant hero will be crucified like a criminal.

Palms were symbols of life among the nomadic tribes, who, when crossing the desert, rejoiced at seeing the palm tree as it indicated an oasis with life-giving water was near. Palms have long been a sign of victory, success and glory.

On Palm Sunday, we go out to meet Jesus, carry the blessed palms, joyfully sing out our hosanna

and join in His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. But soon our joy turns to somberness as, clutching our palm, we hear the narrative of Christ's passion. We realize, once again, that His triumph, His true victory, will come through the cross. We know, as Jesus did, how Holy Week will end. We know that joy will return to sorrow and back to joy. We know that through the horror of His suffering, followed by the glory of His resurrection, good will trump evil and life will trump death.

The palms we take home and put in a special place serve to remind us that Palm Sunday is not lost to the ages but that by Christ's victory we, too can achieve everlasting life. "For us too, the (palms) must be symbols of triumph, indicative of the victory to be won in our battle against the evil in ourselves and against the evil which roams about us. As we receive the blessed palm, let us renew our pledge to conquer with Jesus, but let us not forget that it was on the cross that He conquered"

(“Divine intimacy,” Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D., Tan Books, 1997, pp. 392-393)



2024 APPEAL

Last week we received our first donor report which showed that 47 families had donated or pledged \$7,290 to date. Our goal this year was a robust amount, and we are presently \$830 short of goal. If we fail to make that number, it would mark the first time our parish has fallen short in this endeavor. It is still my hope that every family would consider contributing to this year's effort. Every gift, however small, does make a difference. Thank you again for your prayerful consideration of a donation. As before, we have pledge cards for your use. Please ask an usher or scan the code and visit the website to make a donation.



Father Koo

Continued

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE DURING LENT

Fasting is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

Abstinence is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted.

*All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting.



EASTER FLOWERS SPECIAL COLLECTION

Today, our second collection will be for Easter Flowers. If you desire to recognize a loved one (s) with your contribution, please place the name of the individual (s) on your collection envelope. The names will be published in the Easter Bulletin.



CHANGE IN LENTEN SCHEDULE

A reminder that the Good Friday Service will begin at 3pm. The retreat will start at 12 and end at 3pm. The retreat will start with the stations of the cross and our own Bill Plunkert is our professional spiritual speaker, there will be guided meditation and ending with the veneration of the cross. Please take this opportunity to participate in our retreat.

SPRING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Holy Spirit in the Bible!
A Spring Adult Bible Study of The Holy Spirit in the Bible is scheduled to start on Wednesday, April 10. The study is six lessons, and

we are planning to meet every Wednesday morning from 10:00-11:00, so the study will run through May 15. A second session will be offered each week on either Monday or Thursday evening for those who cannot make the morning sessions. Contact John Weidner at jaweidner1@verizon.net or 240-780-1872 if you would like to join our study group or if you would like



Please pray for the following:

Pat Tyrrell, Christopher Morrell,
Betty Hodge and William Benson



PARISHIONERS

Walt & Kari Lee Donovan, Peggy Williams, Paula Wilson, John & Carol McCormack, Lynne McMurtrie, Barbara Smith, The Hollingsworth family, Don Tyrrell, David Rector, Lorraine Kirsch, Tom Shoemaker, Bea Foley, Jack King, Donna Thompson, Brendan O'Brien, Spike & Becky Nunn, Lois & Skip Kramb, Marianne Krop, Michele Meanley, Louise Petralia, Natalie Smith, Pat Paul, Margaret Hock, Steve Kirsch, Marilynne Cerullo, Tom Hawksworth, Nancy Wirth, Linda Gray, Pat Reamy, Andrea Moore, Lynn Vajda.

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If you need to add to the prayer list or would like a Mass intention please call the office, email, or leave a note in the box outside the office.

A BIG THANK YOU

Congratulations to Kaylee and Brennan. Thank you for everyone's help with Social Sunday especially Mary Ellen Sherwood and Debbie McNeil. They worked both the funeral and Social Sunday. A big thank you to everyone who brought food.



Johnna

LEARN TO LEAD

CAMPAIGN FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

As you recall, we had a special collection last fall in support of the subject campaign. In a recent letter, the Diocese heralded the success of the collection (Totaled \$341,927) and the overall campaign effort which raised over \$32 million for the Diocesan Catholic Schools.



OUR LADY OF THE BAY COUNCIL 11210 OF MATHEWS AND MIDDLESEX COUNTIES

K of C is a not-for-profit organization whose principles are Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

Donations support:

Gloucester, Mathews, Northern Neck & Middlesex Free Health Clinics (KOVAR) Virginians with intellectual disabilities, the VA Veterans Services- Golf Tournament, Families in need, Hands Across Middlesex & Mathews, and The Father John Boddie Scholarship Fund.

Activities that provide funding:

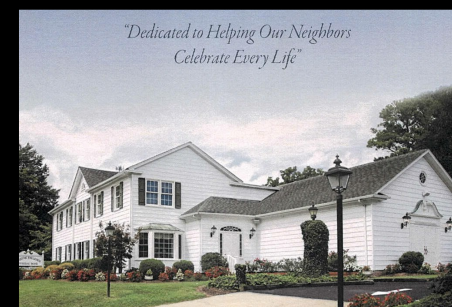
Pancake Breakfast, Italian Feast, St. Pat's Dinner, KOVAR Collection, Dave Marchant Golf Tournament.

We are active participants in many ministries to include Alter servers, Choir members, Collection counter, Community Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers, Parish Council Members and Ushers.

The KOC meet at 5:15pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Church of the Visitation. We start with the Rosary.

All are welcome!

Any questions call Our Grand Knight-Al Langer at 804-815-1328.



Faulkner Funeral Homes
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In Loving Memory
of Bobby Warren

Your Family
Arlene,
L.C., Faye,
Caitlyn & Courtlyn

"Gone but not to be forgotten"

In memory of

Lillian M. Reiffel,

Teacher



PRAYERS
MEMORIES
LOVE
Jerry
McMurtrie

**SAINT THERESA OF CALCUTTA'S
"ANYWAY PRAYER"**

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies; succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; be honest and frank anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; build it anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; be happy anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; give the world the best you've got anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway.

Breathe in Love,
Exhale Peace.



In Loving
Memory Of
David E. Brinkley

In Loving Memory of
Vincent "Poppy" &
Vinnie Recupido

The Recupido &
Hollingsworth Families

"The Retirement Plan Of Christ
Was His Passion.
Is Yours The Same?"

Josiah Reffo



In
Loving Memory
Of

Alma and Fritz Sitterding

Supporting Our Youth


TO SUPPORT
OUR YOUTH,
THEIR DREAMS,
& OUR FUTURE.

Lynne & Gary Richardson

Thanks for always supporting us in everything we do!
Emily & Anna

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WE WISH OUR YOUTH
CLEAR SAILING
DEBBY AND ED HARRIMAN

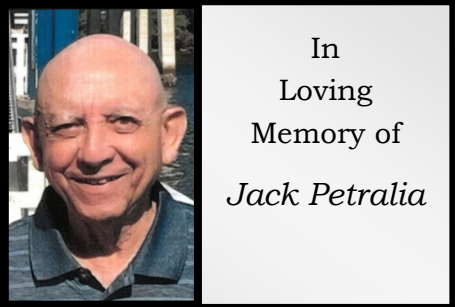


"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."
-Benjamin Franklin
Tom & Cindy Jessee



In support of our
Future Leaders
"Our Youth"
The Kirsch Family

FOR OUR CHURCH KITTIES
Choco, Tabby & Rufus

In Loving Memory of
Jack Petralia

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Fred and Betty Meister

We Support The Youth Scholarship
John & Carol McCormack



In Memory of
Thomas R. Shepherd, Jr. 8/28/1943 to 3/18/2020
Thomas R. Shepherd III 11/05/1970 to 3/31/2022

In loving memory of our Father Bob Nash

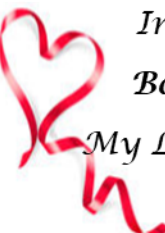



In Loving Memory of
"Lee Hollingsworth"
We love and miss you!
Barb & Tori


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Bob Hartman
My Love of My Life
Jenny




In loving memory of
Marty Hawksworth
Tom & Sharon




Helping Our Youth
Build Their Future
Limerick II
Limerick II Enterprises
Construction Management Services
Tom Shoemaker
In Memory of JoAn



Kenneth Anderson
"Say not in grief 'he is no more' but in thankfulness that he was".



Lewis Forte



Thank you for supporting our education
Michael, Colin, Kathryn,
John & Kevin Walsh

Frank & Gerrie Lohr
Supporting
Higher Education

In Loving Memory of
Morgan Wells
Forever,
Marianne




In Loving Memory
"Ricky" David Richard Suyes III & Marie M. Suyes





C. Ben Lennon, D.D.S.
Mathews Dentistry 804-725-9485
Deltaville Dentistry 804-776-9484



Best wishes to all the youth at Church of the Visitation
Mary Virginia & Tom Bliley

BE A KNIGHT
Contact: Grand Knight
Al Langer
804-815-3515
OUR LADY OF THE BAY
COUNCIL 11210



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&
Douglas Arthur Nelson Nunn
"Our Beloved Sons"
Spike and Becky Nunn

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